IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (original) In a client-server environment, a method for providing transparency in a gateway of an IP network comprising the steps of:

interrogating a directory comprising data for each end-user of said IP network;

retrieving parameters associated with said data for a first end-user in response to an access request from a client application of said first end-user;

accessing an application server on behalf of said client application in accordance with said retrieved parameters for said first end-user; and

relaying data between said client application and said application server.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:

creating, in said gateway of said IP network, [a] the directory including entries for every end-user on said IP network.

3. (original) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:

updating, in said gateway of said network, the directory of said end-users, said step of updating the directory including the steps of:

disabling entries for those of said end-users that disconnect;

enabling entries for those of said end-users that connect; and

updating said entries of said end-users comprising dynamic parameters whenever said parameters are changing while connected.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of retrieving parameters associated with said end-user for said access request from said client application includes the steps of:

obtaining leading data from said client application having issued said access request for said end-user;

parsing said leading data;

determining a protocol said client application is currently using;

interrogating said directory at an entry corresponding to said first end-user; retrieving parameters associated with said protocol; and

executing said protocol in accordance with said parameters associated with said protocol.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1 further including the step of informing said end-user of said client application that a server application is unavailable if a link to said application server is not established.

6. (original) A data processing system for providing a gateway of an IP network, comprising:

circuitry operable for interrogating a directory comprising data for each end-user of said IP network;

circuitry operable for retrieving parameters associated with said data for a first end-user in response to an access request from a client application of said first end-user; and

circuitry operable for accessing an application server on behalf of said client application in accordance with said retrieved parameters for said first end-user; and

circuitry operable for relaying data between said client application and said application server.

7. (currently amended) The system according to claim 6 further comprising:

circuitry operable for creating, in said gateway of said IP network, [a] the directory including entries for every end-user on said IP network.

8. (original) The system according to claim 6 further comprising:

circuitry operable for updating, in said gateway of said network, the directory of said end-users, said circuitry operable for updating the directory including:

circuitry operable for disabling entries for those of said end-users that disconnect;

circuitry operable for enabling entries for those of said end-users that connect; and

circuitry operable for updating said entries of said end-users comprising dynamic parameters whenever said parameters are changing while connected.

9. (currently amended) The system according to claim 6 wherein the circuitry operable for retrieving parameters associated with said end-user for said access request from said client application includes:

circuitry operable for obtaining leading data from said client application having issued said access request for said end-user;

circuitry operable for parsing said leading data;

circuitry operable for determining a protocol said client application is currently using;

circuitry operable for interrogating said directory at an entry corresponding to said first end-user; and

circuitry operable for retrieving parameters associated with said protocol;

executing said protocol in accordance with said parameters associated with said protocol.

10. (original) The system according to claim 6 further including the circuitry operable for informing said end-user of said client application that a server application is unavailable if a link to said application server is not established.

11. (original) A computer program product embodied in a tangible storage medium, the program product for providing transparency in a gateway of an IP network, the program product including a program of instructions for performing the steps of:

interrogating a directory comprising data for each end-user of said IP network;

retrieving parameters associated with said data for a first end-user in response to an access request from a client application of said first end-user;

accessing an application server on behalf of said client application in accordance with said retrieved parameters for said first end-user; and

relaying data between said client application and said application server.

12. (currently amended) The computer program product according to claim 11, further comprising instructions for performing the step of:

creating, in said gateway of said IP network, [a] the directory including entries for every end user on said IP network.

13. (original) The program product according to claim 11 further comprising instructions for performing the step of:

updating, in said gateway of said network, the directory of said end-users, said step of updating the directory including the steps of:

disabling entries for those of said end-users that disconnect;

enabling entries for those of said end-users that connect; and

updating said entries of said end-users comprising dynamic parameters whenever said parameters are changing while connected.

14. (currently amended) The program product according to claim 11 wherein the step of retrieving parameters associated with said end-user for said access request from said client application includes the steps of:

obtaining leading data from said client application having issued said access request for said end-user;

parsing said leading data;

determining a protocol said client application is currently using;

interrogating said directory at an entry corresponding to said first end-user; retrieving parameters associated with said protocol; and

executing said protocol in accordance with said parameters associated with said protocol.

15. (original) The program product according to claim 11 further including instructions for performing the step of informing said end-user of said client application that a server application is unavailable if a link to said application server is not established.